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E.C.R. Committeemen's Letter No. 1.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
East Central Division

July 25, 1936.

To: Agricultural Conservation Committeemen.
East Central Region

Dear Committeemen:

Early reports indicate that the drought has seriously reduced the seed harvest of important pasture and meadow grasses and has affected the seed crop of alfalfa, clover, sweet clover and other legumes in major seed-producing areas.

In view of the encouragement given to the increase in acreage of soil-conserving crops and the improvement of pastures, meadows and ranges by the Agricultural Conservation Program, it is of great importance that all possible attention be given to the seed supply of adapted soil-conserving crops and emergency forage and cover crops for planting this fall and during 1937.

Seed problems vary locally within each region, and must be considered from the standpoint of local conditions and adaptation. It is hence suggested that at an early date County Agricultural Conservation Associations give careful attention to the available local seed supply for use in connection with the Agricultural Conservation Program. Individual farmers can do much to insure the seed supply by making a special effort, wherever possible, to harvest their own supply of adapted seed of crops greatly reduced by drought, or to make arrangements at an early date for a seed supply from dependable sources serving their locality.

In coping with drought, the record made by such crops as alfalfa, lespedeza, sweet clover, soybeans, forage sorghums, and sudan grass, and established grass sods will, undoubtedly, further increase the interest of farmers in increasing the use of these crops and other crops most effective in soil conservation and in producing emergency roughage and pasture.

In many counties where drought seriously reduced livestock feed supplies, farmers will need to increase their fall plantings of cover and pasture crops, such as rye and winter vetch, and in central and southern localities, where adapted, winter peas, winter oats and barley. Seed supplies should be available locally for use when needed.

Your County Agricultural Agent and the agronomists of your State Agricultural College can advise you in regard to the seed supply situation in your State and methods of harvesting, threshing, curing and storing seed crops.

Sincerely yours,

J. B. Hutson
J. B. Hutson,
Director, East Central Division.

